



THE Macdonald Farm Journal

VOLUME 17 No. 3

NOVEMBER 1956

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Will Farmers follow the Market?

A recent study by a Harvard — Macdonald group provides a population projection to 1970 which in its implications to Canadian farmers is almost staggering. This conclusion requires only the assumption that farmers will produce for Canada's future population, and consider its regional distribution. Apart from small grains, exports even now make up but a small part of Canadian farm production. Farmers of this country are increasingly oriented to the rapidly growing domestic market. Thus the regional shape of that market over a period of as little as 15 years must be of the greatest importance. Perhaps the best indication of this regional character of the market for farm products in 1970 is given by projected population alone. The following table provides the relevant population data:

Region	1955	1970	Percentage Change
Alberta	1,761	1,618	— 9
Quebec	4,520	6,075	+ 34
Ontario	5,183	7,406	+ 43
Prairies	2,804	3,129	+ 12
British Columbia	1,305	2,756	+ 111
Canada	15,573	20,984	+ 35

This population projection is not a simple projection from what has happened over the past 20, 30 or 50 years. It takes account of the resources of each region and of the trends in the development of these resources. Thus British Columbia is indicated as having an almost explosive development over the next 15 years, more than a doubling of population. Already a deficit region for food, by 1970 British Columbia will likely produce far less than half her food requirements. Fortunately, that province is fairly close to the very productive Prairie area, and will call on the Prairies increasingly for feed grains, meats, butter and cheese.

The Prairies will not only continue to produce wheat but even expand production moderately, due mainly to the effect of increasing yields. However, livestock production in that region will likely increase by more than 50 per cent.

Farmers in Central Canada, with two-thirds of the population in this region, will have a greatly expanded market close at hand. Since the prospect is for transportation costs to increase rather than decrease, this market will become an increasingly private preserve of farmers in the region. Next to British Columbia,

Ontario and Quebec will certainly show the greatest economic development and the greatest population change. How to produce about 40 per cent more food in a period as short as 15 years, and to do it on the same acreage of land, with smaller labour force and fewer farms, is the problem confronting farmers in Ontario and Quebec. Farms will obviously become larger, more mechanized and more efficient. Fortunately it appears that farmers will be more adequately paid for making this great contribution to the country's progress.

The position of the Maritimes, extremely difficult over the past two generations, will likely continue to be unfavourable. An actual decline in population is projected. The region will be helped by the prospect that transport costs will tend to guarantee them a higher proportion of the local market. But this at the same time will adversely affect their shipment of food to other parts of Canada. Farmers in the three or four most productive areas in the Maritimes will be aided by improving the efficiency of their operation. They have the resources to do it. The prospect is that farming in other portions in the Maritimes may be destined to a gradual disappearance or to moving even more to a subsistence existence.

The farm industry needs to consider the problem of adjusting to a very rapid industrialization and urbanization of the nation. Now is the time to get our extension programmes and farm management research work oriented toward the farm industry, making a smooth and efficient adjustment. In each important agricultural region and on carefully chosen farms, there should be studies of the way in which adjustments could best be made. This research would, like the extension programme which would flow from it, be concerned with such problems as the economy of farms of various sizes, of rotation schemes, of cropping practices, the systems and practices involved in livestock enterprises, and such questions as the conditions under which machinery may be efficiently substituted for labour.

Our Cover Picture

"Boxed in!" Pierre Lessard of Frelighsburg, P.Q., happily piles boxes of this year's apple crop into the cellar of his big barn, which makes a good storage plant.

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A Macdonald Graduate Takes To Apple Trees

by D. L. Waterston

We all hope to have dreams fulfilled someday. This graduate's dream was fulfilled while he was young enough to enjoy its fruits.

MOST Macdonald men leave college with a dream of some how, some time, having a shot at practical farming. Most of them, of course, wind up in a very different life. Macdonald graduates fill a variety of occupations: some forsake agriculture altogether; a high percentage take jobs in industry, government, or in the universities.

But a small percentage of the degree-in-agriculture students do find their way back to the farm. One who has done so—most successfully!—is Pierre Lessard, B.Sc. (Agr.) '45 of Frelighsburg, Quebec. Like most farmers in that district, Pierre is in the orchard business. But unlike most, Pierre was not born in that area. As a school boy he came to the district for two years of summer work, and in that time developed a love of the apple business. He migrated to British Columbia, but finally decided to settle in the Eastern Townships in the hope of becoming a successful orchardist. While studying at Macdonald College, Pierre went into partnership with a friend and



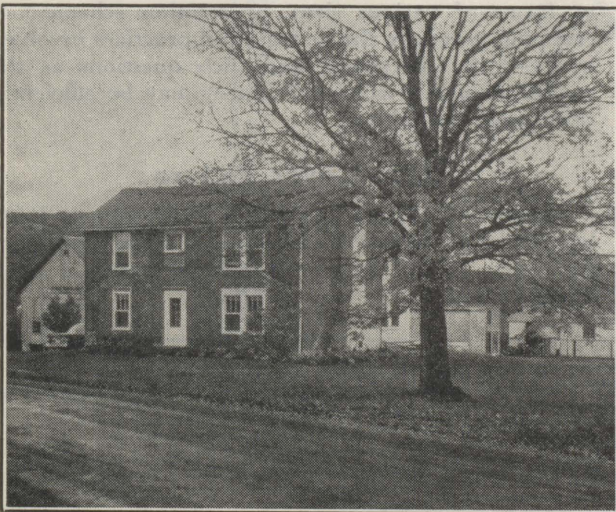
Pierre Lessard of Frelighsburg surveys part of his 1956 bumper crop of McIntosh apples.

they bought a farm in the Frelighsburg district. In 1948 his friend bought him out, and Pierre in turn bought up his present farm.

What happens when a Mac man goes into farming? Pierre Lessard gives interesting proof that his college training can be turned to a variety of uses. He is no "hobby farmer", no college man out to show the neighbourhood how smart a graduate can be. Basically he follows district orchard practices, and he has built up his enterprise through hard work, ingenuity, and persistence. But there are some aspects of his enterprise that we would like to think are a reflection of his Macdonald years.

How is this for a list of "Mac" qualities?" —

- *A wide view.* Pierre has enough training in economic thought to be canny about prices and markets. Last year a bumper crop hit a poor market condition, and orchardists took a beating. It takes perspective to understand and adjust to the intangible elements of a complicated economy. In particular, Pierre Lessard maintains his perspective by keeping a second job going: that of



In front of Pierre's beautiful farm home a maple tree stands on a golden doily of leaves. Behind the house are the rolling hills of the Eastern Townships.

assistant manager of the Montreal Salon d'Agriculture. At this show-window of Quebec farming, Pierre keeps in touch with all aspects of the agricultural picture, hoping to avoid localism and the narrowness of the strict specialist.

- **Long range planning.** This year has been an excellent one for Pierre, with a good crop and good prices; but orchardists face a chancy market. Pierre has added minor lines to his major one in order to bank against possible future losses. He has a 150 acre farm, of which 90 acres are in orchard. Of some 3000 trees, 60% are McIntoshes, the remainder Fameuses, Cortlands, and Melbas. As a sideline he has set out 3000 raspberry bushes and some strawberry and asparagus plants. He also keeps broilers the year round, in order to make his maintenance of labour economical. He markets about 2000 broilers a year.
- **Willingness to take expert advice.** When Pierre was ready to "branch out" from apples, a horticulture man came out from Macdonald to advise on how best to use the land. Maybe this is the real test of the "college farmer"—a readiness to forfeit some of the farmer's traditional independence of judgment, in favour of advice by authorities on the special field.
- **Readiness to experiment.** With his broilers, raspberries, strawberries, as well as with his apples, Pierre Lessard uses progressive methods, adapting them to local conditions and traditions.
- **Finally—a philosophy.** Looking over the autumn beauty of his rolling hilly farmland, Pierre knows what things in life bring him most satisfaction. He can assess his life in contrast with other locations, other occupations. He is willing to plan hard and work hard in order to continue the development of his way of life.



Insurance: broilers provide an alternate source of income for Pierre and give work to the hired man during the off-season in the orchard.

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Insects Take Ten Percent

by F. O. Morrison

INSECTS collect an annual tax of 10 per cent on our total agricultural production. This statement isn't based on any guess made sitting at a desk. Annual estimates of crop losses due to various causes have been recorded for some years in the Province of Saskatchewan. The average loss over a ten year period was 9.9 per cent of the annual production. It is unlikely that the loss is any less in other areas and in some it is certainly heavier.

Canada's annual agricultural production of field crops, tobacco, fruit, seed crops, vegetables, forest products, and live stock now totals over four billion dollars. What government would stay in power if it taxed the farmers to the tune of \$400 million and gave nothing in return? Then one must add to this bill the cost of such control measures as we employ. Canadian farmers apply agricultural chemicals (herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides) to the amount of 413 million dollars annually. The insecticides alone account for slightly less than half of this expenditure. These estimates do not include losses due to rats, mice and other rodents which are estimated to eat or destroy food to the value of another \$500 million dollars a year. Nor do the figures include non-chemical controls or the cost of control application.

What are we doing about these matters and what more can we do?

The losses ascribed to insects are due to the feeding or life activities of a large number of species possibly a thousand or more kinds altogether. A very large percentage of the control measures is, however, aimed at between fifty and one hundred major offenders. It would be uneconomical to attempt control of lesser pests. Various

The farmers' largest tax collector may well be the humble housefly and other insects. Here Dr. Morrison tells what is being done to curtail their activities and what more can be done.

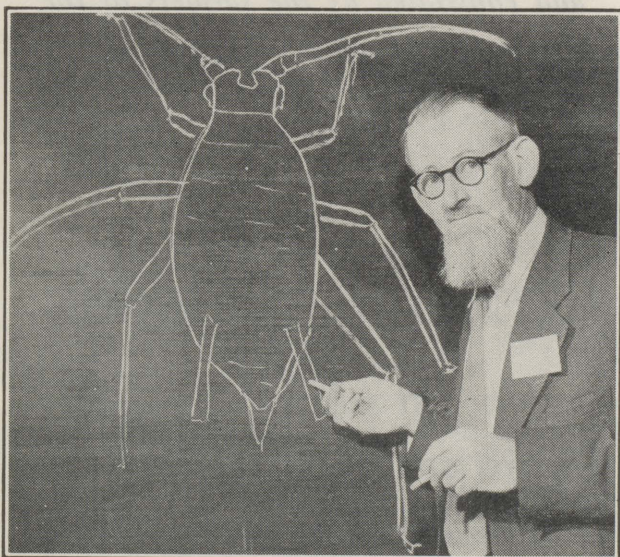
kinds of mites and lice alone cause a six million dollar annual loss to swine growers and an equal loss to poultry men. Over 75 per cent of the total potato acreage in Canada requires annual chemical treatment for Colorado potato beetle control. All the Canadian acreage of onions is attacked by onion maggot. Tobacco is severely hit by cutworms, wireworms, hornworms and aphids. Other insects which cause major losses are: grasshoppers, white grubs, codling moth, European corn borer, western wheat stem sawfly, plant feeding mites, peach tree borer, oriental peach moth, plum curculio, spruce budworm, scale insects, eye-spotted bud-moth, pear psylla, and fruit flies.

Immigrant species are often the worst offenders. These come in from other countries without their natural enemies and build up to populations which cause spectacular losses. Among the invaders now in Canada are the oriental fruit moth (the worm in the peach), the European corn borer, the San Jose scale, pear psylla, apple sawfly, larch sawfly, Mexican bean beetle, European elm bark beetle, and European spruce sawfly. Until nature took a hand in the form of a virus disease of the last named pest it threatened to denude vast areas of Eastern Canada of its valuable spruce stands. Possibly as many more potential pest insects (estimated as high as 7000) stand poised on our doorstep, ready to enter.

Canadian entomologists back in 1916 eliminated an invasion of brown-tail moth from Nova Scotia. This same insect is an established pest in the Eastern United States. The United States suffers tremendous annual losses from other immigrant species such as the gypsy moth, Mexican bean beetle and Japanese beetle. Florida is currently fighting an invasion of the Mediterranean fruit fly which, if established, will take a serious toll from citrus fruit growers. An earlier invasion in 1929 was eradicated by drastic measures. California has recently acquired from India a new and serious pest of stored grain, the Khapra beetle. Modern rapid transport and increased international trade has multiplied the danger of insect invasions. Insects recognize no international boundaries and often prove to be costly immigrants.

Scientists vs Insect Pests

Arrayed against the insect pests, Canada has considerably fewer than 1000 trained entomologists, who study insects and insect control. This small group have not been without their remarkable victories. The brown-tail moth



Dr. Hille Ris Lambers of the Netherlands Agricultural Research Council points to a drawing of an aphid, an insect which is a scourge to farmers all over the world.

which invaded Nova Scotia was eradicated by prompt and decisive action. In Alberta in 1950 treatment of 296,000 acres for grasshopper control at a cost of \$50,000 is estimated to have saved six million dollars worth of grain; a similar action saved \$50 million in crop in Saskatchewan in 1949. Seed treatment against wireworms in Western Canada is estimated to return the farmer \$42 for \$1 spent. It is too early to assess the overall results from the tremendous aerial spraying projects carried out over the past four years for spruce budworm control in New Brunswick and Quebec but it is certain that many millions of board feet of much needed lumber is still living, which, left alone, would have been dead loss by now.

International Congress Helps Fight

Our force of entomologists is pitifully small. If we put a team of three or four entomologist on each major pest we have none left for the thousands of less important pests or the possible immigrant species. Then we need entomologists to teach and entomologists as extension men. Nor is this situation peculiar to Canada. Often not more than one or two entomologists in scattered parts of the world are making intensive studies of one particular pest. Under these circumstances a chance for these people to meet to-gether is invaluable. That is one of the major values of international congresses such as the 10th International Congress of Entomology which met in Montreal, August last.

At that time some 1500 scientists, who devote their lives to the study of insects, met at the Universities of McGill and Montreal. These entomologists came from sixty countries in all parts of the world. There were delegations from such widely separated places as the U.S.S.R., French Morocco, Cuba and Brazil. Eleven different rooms were used continuously for meetings of groups. The report containing all the papers delivered will run to six volumes. One set of the abstracts alone weighed 4½ pounds. The subjects discussed varied from "The courtship behaviour of a tropical mimetic butterfly", through "The survival of mouse poliomyelitis virus in living invertebrates (insects, etc.) hosts" to "Soil insecticides".

The average farmer would find very few among the thousands of titles listed in the program which might seem to him to have any direct bearing on his day-to-day problems. He might be forgiven if he grumbled when he learned that some of his taxes paid to send some fifty bus loads of long-haired scientists from Montreal to Ottawa. But the truth is that the Canadian farmer stands to reap

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real benefit from such gatherings.

Insects recognize no national boundaries. Why should entomologists? The Congress section dealing with grasshopper control heard papers from workers in Africa, India, Australia, Argentina, the United States of America and Canada. The similarity of the problems in these several areas was as striking as was the variety of approaches.

Solutions for some insect problems require years of effort. Over forty years were spent struggling with wireworm control before the present effective methods were evolved. Nor do such controls usually appear suddenly. They develop as a little information is added by workers from here and there. Where progress has been discouraging, international meetings give rise to new enthusiasm and a pooling of ideas. Resistance of insects, such as houseflies to insecticides is a major problem. Concern is being felt by health authorities. At the Congress workers from England, California, Israel, Georgia, Holland, Germany, and Canada discussed the matter. Enough is now known of resistance to make it possible to forestall or delay its appearance in some instances. As yet there is no way to overcome the resistance insects develop, once it has appeared. Farmers will recall the promise of DDT for fly control in dairy barns and its subsequent failure, due to the development of resistant strains of flies. But the development of malathion and related compounds has given us reasonable fly control again. The question is how to be sure resistance to these new materials will not develop. Only continuous investigation by numbers of entomologists given a free hand and world citizenship can efficiently solve such problems.

The Farm and the Market

by the Staff of the Economics Department
of Macdonald College

What Price Efficiency?

Can farmers improve their efficiency in production by taking advantage of scientific and technical knowledge without aggravating their marketing problems? Yes and no. A definite answer to the question depends on whether you mean *all* existing farmers or just *some* of them. If all farmers improved their efficiency together, it would certainly aggravate their marketing problems because the supply of farm products would get out of balance with the demand. The supply would increase suddenly while the demand is increasing only gradually. But that is not the way the process works. Some farmers are always improving their efficiency and some are seldom or never doing so. The inefficient farmers tend to be the high-cost farmers who lose money when farm prices are low. The efficient farmers make profits even in times of low farm prices. Some of the inefficient farmers are constantly being forced out of business. The faster the good farmers improve their efficiency, the greater is the disadvantage in which the inefficient farmers find themselves in the market.

Efficiency in farming is not just a question of scientific know-how, it is also a question of the right scale of operation. Frequently, the scale of operation in planning is too small to realize the full gains of efficiency. The farmers who do best financially are usually found operating the larger units. The farmers who improve their efficiency usually expand their scale of operation. This can only be done by intensive and/or extensive expansion. The trend for decades in Canada has been towards larger farms, both in area and in capital invested. The key to raising farm incomes is to increase the efficiency *per person* engaged in agriculture. To do this, the process requires the squeezing out of farmers who cannot make the necessary adjustments and improvements. This culling out of farmers is least painful when the rest of the economy is prosperous and there are plenty of jobs off the farm.

In a dynamic economy like Canada, there are varying pressures upon producers to "trim" their output and operations to suit the changing pattern of demand. The promptness or way with which farmers respond to these pressures is a basic factor determining their efficiency and their income. The question of improving farmer efficiency simply cannot be divorced from the question: How many efficient farmers really would be needed to produce the food requirements of the nation?

College Publication on Quebec Tobacco

An economic report on "Tobacco Farming and Marketing in Quebec" is in press. It was written by Professor W. E. Haviland of the Economics Department and is being published as Macdonald College Bulletin No. 21.

The United States Soil Bank Programme

The circle has been completed. The United States is back at 1933, or perhaps at 1937. This refers to the Agricultural Act of 1956, known as Soil Bank Programme. The Act combines features of the 1933 Agricultural Adjustment Act and the 1937 Soil Conservation Act. From the first it draws the idea of paying farmers for taking land out of production of crops in surplus. From the 1937 Act it embraces the idea of compensating farmers financially for conservation practices.

The new legislation, in fact, provides two separate programmes. The first is to set up an "acreage reserve". Under this, the producer agrees to reduce the acreage devoted to a surplus commodity below his acreage allotment under the old parity programme. For this cooperation farmers producing wheat, cotton, corn, peanuts, rice and tobacco may be paid aggregate sums amounting to 750 million dollars per year.

The second part of the Soil Bank Programme is called "conservation reserve". Producers must agree to establish and maintain a protective vegetative covering or to perform other conservation practices on land placed in this "reserve" during the contract period, not less than three years. The farmer must agree not to harvest any crop from the conservation reserve or allow it to be grazed. For cooperating in this part of the programme American farmers may be paid up to 450 million dollars per year.

The Soil Bank Programme is an attempted answer to several needs of American agriculture. First, was the political necessity for a quick transfer of federal funds to an industry which has seen its incomes decline for four consecutive years, while other segments of the economy have steadily advanced. (This is an election year). The second need which this programme would help to meet is the obvious failure of earlier American programmes of guaranteeing farmers high prices in terms of rigid parity formulas. The conservation aspect of the programme is pretty much a selling point to win non-farm support.

Over the past three years the United States has courageously attacked the surplus problem by acreage restrictions and marketing quotas. But this has not been enough. Farmers have found means to circumvent the effects of these restrictions. Thus the real significance of the present programme is in further restricting acreage and making it more difficult for farmers to "beat the law". This new programme will serve as no model for Canada. Rather its significance to us is in the hope that the United States may with this programme reduce its wheat acreage another ten to fifteen million acres. This would have the wholesome effect of greatly moderating or entirely ending the reckless surplus disposal programme of the United States Government.



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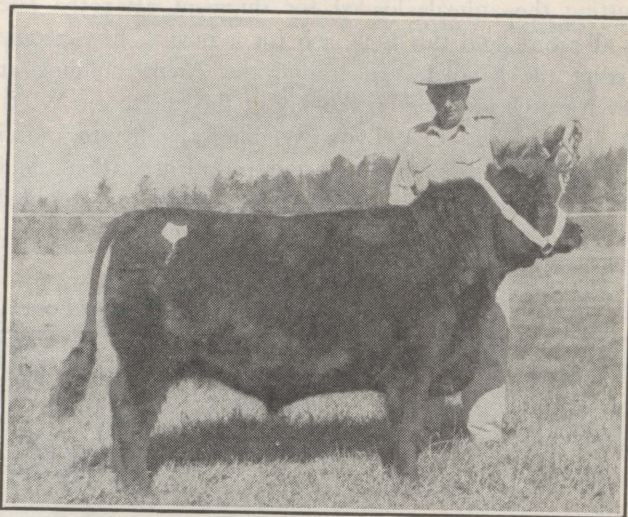
Two Angus Champions At Winter Fair

The efforts that herdsman Bill Brass has put into the management of Dr. G. R. McCall's Angus herd paid off in a grand championship this year at the Sherbrooke Winter Fair. His steer, top in a class of 21 in the 951 to 1050 pound group, went on to take the championship in a close race with a lighter steer shown by E. G. Smith of Magog, the winner in the 751 to 850 pound class which brought out 30 head.

Steinberg's seem to have established a tradition of buying the grand champion steer, and bid it in again this year for \$1.87, which was 32 cents more than was paid last year. Taking full advantage of the advertising value of the purchase, the steer has been exhibited, alive, at the firm's various stores in the district and has attracted a lot of attention from the city folks who seldom if ever see their steaks and roasts on the hoof.

The reserve champion, bought by Eaton's, brought \$1.22 which was 20 cents over the price obtained last year. The two other breed champions each went for 58 cents, the Shorthorn, shown by N. G. Bennett, to Morantz, and the Hereford to Obie's Meat Market. The Hereford, shown by Robert Nichol, was the reserve champion in the calf club show and sold at 864 pounds. Last year's prices were 80 cents for the Hereford champion and 50 cents for the Shorthorn.

Once the champions were disposed off, prices settled down around the 36 cent mark, except for Jim Brass' steer



This is the Angus that took the championship for Dr. McCall. Bill Brass is at the halter.

which was the grand champion of the calf club show, which Eaton's bought for 75 cents. On a total sale of 128 head, the average price worked out at 36.4 cents on a gross value of \$39,783.97.

Eaton's was the big buyer at the sale this year, taking no fewer than 42 steers and 41 lambs. Charlie Morantz and the Morantz Beef Company were active bidders as usual and a new buyer, Obie's Meat Market, took several offerings. Modern Packers, National Beef and Canada Packers were large buyers, and others included the Co-operative Federee, Nichol's, Pesner Bros, Wilsil's and Letofsky. About 40 buyers were active at ringside throughout the sale.

The Montreal Children's Hospital profited from the sale of the champion, for Dr. McCall donated the proceeds to this institution. The meat from two steers bought from the Woodward Estate and from Gary Beattie by Charlie Morantz was donated to the Jewish General Hospital by the buyer, and a steer bought by Hygrade Meat from Clifford McCormick was resold to Wilsil's for the benefit of the Red Feather campaign.

Angus cattle dominated the show, both in numbers and in quality. They stood at the top in all except the heavy steer class where Erwin Watson had a first. Angus also took the new prize, the Legrade Special, for the best group of 3 steers, won by the exhibit of S. L. Kerr from Vaudreuil.



Wendell Cass with the champion wether.

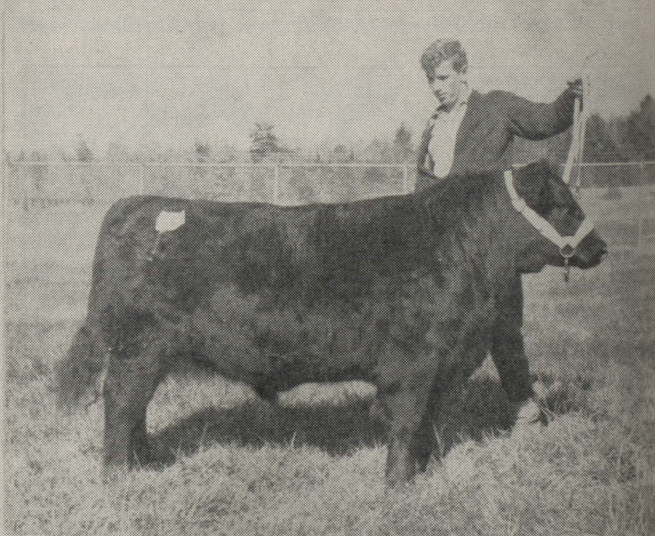
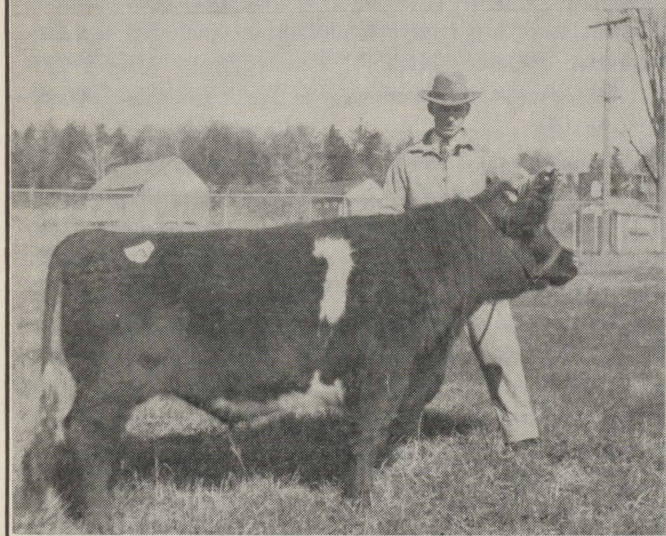
It is probable that most of the people who attend these sales do not realize, when they see the speed at which the animals go through the ring, how much organization has been required and how much work goes on behind the scenes. Gerry Rodrigue has for years been Sale Manager. The culling committee, Messrs. Staples, McKellar, Mercier, Pelchat and Molleur, go over all the animals and take out any that do not come up to standard. This year 14 steers were so removed. W. G. MacDougall and D. J. MacMillan are charged with the responsibility of getting the animals loaded for shipment after the sale is all over—and this is no job for a novice. Few people except the handlers are around the Arena building at seven in the morning on the day of the sale to see W. S. Richardson and Col. Lyon weighing the livestock and getting them properly numbered for identification. And there are any number of other details that are attended to without any public credit being given to the men who do the jobs.

Sheep and Hog Sale

The grand champion wether of the show was owned by Gordon Cass of Ayer's Cliff and went to Charlie Morantz for \$4.00, which was \$1.00 less than Steinberg's paid last year. The reserve, shown by N. G. Bennett, also went to Morantz for \$2.70; this buyer got the reserve last year for \$1.60. The balance of the wethers went to Eatons, Swift-Canadian, Canada Packers, the Co-operative Federee and C. Campbell for prices ranging from 42½ down to 27½ cents. The average of the lamb sale, on a total intake of \$2,847.83, was 42.7 cents, which includes the prices paid for the two champions.

The top pen of 3 hogs, shown by Antonio Sevigny of Princeville, brought \$1.17 from Modern Packers; the top pen of 5, the property of François Montminy of St. Gilles went to Canada Packers for 91 cents. Average of the hog sale was 46 cents, on offerings of 69 head. Wilsil's, Swift-Canadian, Letofsky Bros., La Belle Fermiere and the Co-operative Federee were the other buyers.

Four champions



Top left: Billy Merchant with E. G. Smith's reserve champion. Top right: The Hereford that was breed champion for Bob Nichol and reserve in the calf club

show. Bottom left: N. G. Bennett and his Shorthorn champion; Bottom right: Jimmy Brass and the calf club grand champion.

Show And Sale Of Breeding Stock

The Winter Fair is a show-window where breeders of beef cattle exhibit their wares and the Fat Stock Sale is only part of the programme. The exhibition of breeding classes of the three beef breeds, while entries are not so numerous as in the market classes, brings out some of the better stock in the vicinity, and classes of sheep and hogs are of particular interest to many farmers.

The entries of L. T. Porter (it will be remembered that last year Mr. Porter made a record by showing both the Grand and the Reserve Champion in market steers) dominated the Angus classes, standing down only in the male championship which went to S. L. Kerr of Vaudreuil.

The champion bull in the Hereford classes was owned by J. C. Rutledge of Georgeville, and Nichols animals took the other three tops; Greenhills Farm the champion female, Wesley Nichol the reserve male and Robert Nichol the reserve female.

The Shorthorn female championships both went to Mrs. W. C. Pitfield. Ross Edwards had the champion bull and C. C. Warner the reserve.

Gordon Cass of Ayer's Cliff, N. G. Bennett of Bury, Gordon McElrea, Sherbrooke, D. G. Ross, also of Sherbrooke, had top placings in the sheep classes, and Antonio Sevigny, Princeville, Francois Montminy, St. Gilles, George Picard, St. Michel de Napierville, Normand Houle of St. Simon and Ernest Sylvestre of St. Hyacinthe divided the honours in hogs.

Shorthorn Sale Brings Fair Prices

The Quebec Shorthorn Club took advantage of the opportunity to stage a sale of breeding stock in the early days of the Fair, with only a fair turn-out of prospective buyers, none of whom seemed too eager to bid in the offerings. Eight bulls sold for an average of \$272.50, the top price being paid by Mrs. Pitfield for Corsindae Marshal, a bull imported last year by Tutira Farm, which went to \$410 before being knocked down by auctioneer

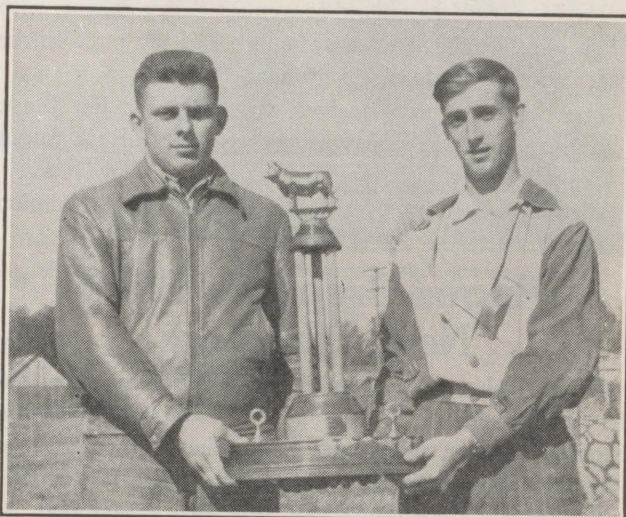


Weighmasters have a cold job, but a very necessary one.

Bennett. For \$380 Irwin Watson took C. C. Warner's Warnerland Norseman Dale back to his Bury farm, and other prices ranged down to a low of \$115

Female prices averaged \$250, with 9 head sold. Top price, \$400, went to Mrs. Pitfield's beautiful big Saraguay Princess 2nd, sold with calf and in calf to Mrs. Dobell from Magog who bought a bull and two other females. The next best price was \$350 which Clifford Gaulin of Bury paid for Warner's Warnerland Norma Adele. After that the top price was \$255 and the lowest \$145.

4-H Members Had A Busy Time



Tops in provincial beef cattle judging: Wendell Groom and Clifford McCormick with the C. D. French Trophy.

The Winter Fair climaxes livestock club work in the Townships, and members of the beef clubs were out in force to show calves, participate in showmanship contests and pick up pointers on livestock raising from their elders. The Fair also features the finals in the provincial junior judging competition, with a free trip to the Royal at Toronto the prize for the winning team.

Four teams were entered in the finals of the judging contest. Bury, represented by Clifford McCormick and Wendell Groom, scored 860 out of a possible 1200 points to take first place and the C. D. French Trophy. In second place were Murray Gardner and Allan Suitor of the Lennoxville club with 825, followed by Wayne Alden and Graydon Lowry of Sawyerville with 814 and Helen Henderson and Alice Nugent of Inverness with 741.

In the calf club show, 28 juniors showed 55 head of beef cattle; 33 in the breeding classes and 22 in the steers. In the steer classes Jim Brass of Lachute had the champion and Robert Nichol of Lennoxville the reserve—a steer which the following day was placed as Hereford champion in the market steer classes and was bought by Obie's Meat Inc. for 58 cents. Jim's champion sold at the sale to Eaton's for 75 cents. Both these animals came from the 800 pounds and up class in which 13 head were entered. The class for steers 650 to 800 pounds, with 9 entries, was topped by

Murray Gardner, with Gloria Chapman's steer in second place.

In the other classes Gloria Chapman, who is developing into quite a showman in spite of her youth, showed the winning junior Shorthorn which went on to the breed championship, and the reserve championship of the show, and for the way she handled her animals in the ring Gloria was awarded the junior showmanship award. The senior calf, which was reserve champion in Shorthorns was shown by Clifford McCormick, who placed second in the senior showmanship contest.

The Hereford championship went to Barry Parsons with Hugh MacDonald in reserve; he also had top prize in the Hereford heifer and steers group.

The class for Angus calves was taken by Jim Brass, who also won the Angus group class and had his Angus champion as grand champion of the junior show.

Wendell Groom of Bury was adjudged senior champion showman.

Angus Breeders Elect New Directors

Robert Laberge of Danville was elected president of the Quebec Aberdeen Angus Association at the annual meeting held last month in Sherbrooke, replacing Bruce McKellar whose term expired this year. Elected directors were Aristide Cousineau, Montreal, Bruce McKellar, E. G. Smith, Magog, and Louis Philippe Payeur of St. Patrice. Dr. Adrien Morin stepped down from the post of secretary-treasurer in favour of John Kerr of Vaudreuil.

The meeting decided that the summer field day would be held during the month of August on the Laberge farm at Danville, and that the breed would be represented by certain selected subjects at the Salon de l'Agriculture in Montreal next winter. It was also decided that every effort would be put forth to see that a really good herd of Angus cattle, recruited from among the best breeders of the province, would be assembled for the Royal Winter Fair in 1957.

Farm Improvement In Champlain

This year's efforts in Champlain County's five-year plan of farm improvement have been judged, and of the 35 farmers who went into the contest at the beginning of the season, Paul Emile Guillemette of St. Stanislas has been proclaimed Master Farmer of the county.

Another contest which has been in progress in the county, that of improvements to the farm home and its surroundings, has also aroused a lot of interest, and no fewer than 400 farm women took part this summer. Miss Constance Chartier, who lives in Champlain, was awarded first prize for the results she achieved.

These contests were organized by Agronome Ulysse Potvin, and he expects that next year's competitions will attract still more farmers and their wives.

New Barley Released

The release of a new malting barley named Parkland was announced recently by Dr. D. G. Hamilton, Chief, Cereal Crops Division, of the Experimental Farms Service.

Parkland was developed at the Experimental Farm, Brandon, Manitoba, from crosses involving Newal, Peatland, OAC.21, Olli and Montcalm. It was developed by W. H. Johnston, Agronomist, Experimental Farm, Brandon, with the assistance of other Scientists of the various units of Experimental Farms, Science Service and the Grain Research Laboratory of the Board of Grain Commissioners.

Parkland is a six-rowed, smooth-awned, nodding variety of the Manchurian type. It has blue aleurone. Parkland requires about the same time to mature as Montcalm, but has stronger straw. It is highly resistant to the prevalent races of stem rust but is moderately susceptible to the smuts, and it does not appear to have any appreciable resistance to the leaf-attacking diseases. It has wide adaptability, having exceeded Montcalm and OAC.21 in yield in all soil climatic zones. Parkland has been assessed as equal to OAC.21 in malting quality and was licensed for sale in March 1956.

Parkland will be distributed to farmers in Western Canada except the Peace River block. If the 1956 data show the variety to be adaptable to Eastern Canada it will also be distributed in the East. For the time being a limited supply of seed will be reserved for farmers in Eastern Canada.

Since this is the first release of Parkland barley, seed stocks can only be purchased from the Canada Department of Agriculture. Private individuals and other organizations do not have supplies.

Sherbrooke's Jersey Show

We did our Jersey breeders an injustice in our report of the Sherbrooke fair when, in our tabulation, we credited them with bring out only 54 head. Actually, they had 176 out to make about the best all-round parade of Jerseys ever seen in a Quebec ring. Quality and uniformity were evident in every class, particularly in the females, and the animals were in excellent condition and well shown.

Competition was close in every class, but judge Hilton Boynton (who is one of the official classifiers for the American Jersey Cattle Club, and on the staff of the New Hampshire College of Agriculture) appeared to please the ringsiders with his placings. Particularly pleasing was the care with which he explained his placings in every class.

The Trip Of A Lifetime

The highest award a 4-H Club member in Canada can earn is a trip to National 4-H Club Week, held in Toronto at the time of the Royal Winter Fair each November.

Earlier this month about a hundred and twenty-five 4-H Club members from every province in Canada made a trip to Toronto. Royal Winter Fair week brings with it a chance for outstanding young rural people of the nation to attend National 4-H Club activities, as a reward for outstanding performance in the projects open to club members.

What does this National Club Week mean to the boys and girls who participate? On the surface, it means six days of tight-packed activities which must be exhausting even to these healthy and energetic young folk.

Eastern and Western delegates arrived in Toronto on Saturday, November 10th, in time for breakfast in the Imperial Dining Room of the Royal York Hotel. The hotel was their home and headquarters for the week. That same morning a Junior 4-H Council was selected (one member from each Province) to see that club members kept in line during the week's activities, to appoint leaders for sing-songs and group discussion periods, and to nominate members for the job of thanking guest speakers. Following a "get-acquainted" luncheon at which they met Lt. Col. S. C. Bate and Mr. McKee, the President and the General Manager of the Winter Fair, all the members went on a sightseeing tour of Toronto, which ended with a banquet at Casa Loma, where they were introduced to some football, hockey and swimming stars. In the evening they went to a hockey game at Maple Leaf Gardens as guests of the Imperial Oil Company.

Sunday was devoted to church going and a bus trip to Niagara Falls, where they saw the famous falls under floodlighting.

On Monday Morning Mrs. J. E. Houck of Brampton, Ont., Canadian delegate to the United Nations, was the guest speaker at the 4-H breakfast at the Roof Garden of the hotel and the morning was spent discussing points raised in her talk. In the afternoon the girls watched demonstrations and listened to talks by leaders in the field of Home Economics, and saw displays of new products and materials being used today in building and remodelling homes. While this was going on the boys were on a tour of the various divisions of the Winter Fair. The evening programme included a banquet and a friendship party and dance at the Roof Garden of the Royal York.

Tuesday breakfast brought another guest speaker, Dr.



The first thing that the enthusiastic 4-H'ers from all over Canada do on reaching Toronto is to register at the Royal York Hotel.

H. L. Patterson, Farm Economics Director for the Ontario Department of Agriculture, and the morning was spent exchanging ideas between the eastern and the western delegates. After a banquet in the Canada Packers' banquet hall both girls and boys visited the Royal Winter Fair and took in the evening horse show.

The Lever Turkey Farm just outside Toronto entertained them on Wednesday. This year the farm expects to grow and process some 90,000 turkeys. Following this visit the boys moved on to the Ford Motor Car assembly plant at Oakville to watch automobiles being put together from the initial framework to the finished car. In the evening at the 4-H Council's annual banquet the club members put on a special demonstration, and later they boarded the train for Ottawa.

In Ottawa, the Thursday activities included a bus tour of the city, a reception where they met the Governor General, a banquet at the Chateau Laurier Hotel, and a tour of the Parliament Buildings. The boys and girls left for their homes that evening.

That's the surface story—a complicated list of comings and goings, meetings and eatings. Beneath the surface lies another pattern—a rare opportunity to exchange ideas, absorb leadership, and build up new interests in the field of farming.

The week's expenses were underwritten by the Canadian Council on 4-H Clubs and donations were received from thirty-four business firms, by Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, and by the twelve national agricultural associations which are associate members of the Council. From the national point of view, it is expense well justified. These young farmers earn their reward, and in turn the week becomes an investment in the



Prof. A. R. Ness and Dr. Ernest Mercier, both from Quebec, listen as a club member gives his reasons for placing a class of dairy cattle as he did. At the 1956 Club Week this activity was replaced by group discussion of some of Canada's problems.

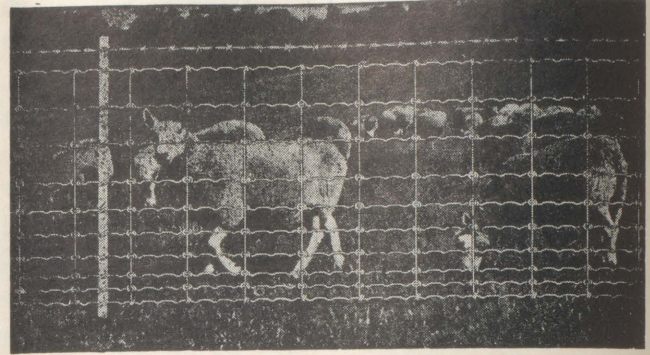


Two Quebec girls giving a clothing demonstration in the Royal York Hotel. Competitive displays such as this are no longer a part of the Club Week programme.

future. They go home worn out, these 4-H winners, but they go home wiser in the ways of Canadian agriculture.

Old friends of the 4-H Clubs may have noticed that National Week no longer includes competitions at the Royal Winter Fair between the provincial winners. The present idea is that these boys and girls have worked long and hard at home to earn their trip to the Royal—they deserve a week free from tension of competition; free for enjoyment and learning and the exchange of ideas.

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SUN LIFE OF CANADA

HEAD OFFICE • MONTREAL

Dear Readers:

The cows and young cattle are again tied up in the barn. We find them contentedly chewing their cud in the warmth of the stable when we go in these chilly mornings. I suppose they dream about all the good eating that is ahead of them in hay, silage and meal which will be mixed in quantities as needed with ground oats, bran, shorts, concentrates and possibly some oil-cake.

Things look quite all right from the family's point of view too, with potatoes and an ample supply of fruits and vegetables in the cellar, also a bag of beech nuts for special treats. There'd be some corn for popping too, but the popping corn plants turned out to be fooder corn for some unknown reason. The cook's disposition improved the day the last of the wood went into the shed. She had threatened to put in an oil-burner if we didn't get at it, but I noticed she had a fine bed of coals from the wood the day she made the mince-meat. So we'll be having some well cooked pies now, I expect.

Then we gave a field which has been in poor production a very liberal coating of manure with hopes that it will encourage the growth for next year. The proper thing to do to it would be to plough in next summer's clover

crop, but it would not be the fashion of present day practices which seem to be at the moment to take our farms for everything they are worth. Why shouldn't fertility in the land, or growing trees, be of as much worth to Canada and every person sharing her economy as the dollar bills stacked up by her banking professions? It seems to be that it is taking the fertility from the ground, the trees from the farm woodlot and stability from the farm for our farmers to meet the spread between high costs and low income. That is the price that is being paid.

Farm auctions are in the highlight these past fine autumn days. Four of our neighbours have moved away without being replaced by new families. Two of the farms have been sold to be logged and I expect the other two will go to lumber merchants.

I didn't realize that the rural scene was changing so drastically until I was in contact with many parts of the County while publicizing the Quebec Folk School. I came to a rural community of lovely smooth even farm land with picturesque sugar places in the distance. Here I was sure there would be a candidate, but in the length of the road I found many vacant houses—families doing work in town, and only two farmers still doing straight farming. So if we have trouble getting Farm Forum memberships this fall it's not the lack of popularity for Farm Forums, but the fault of the unwholesomeness that has attacked the farming industry.

The calf club members are home again after attending the Sherbrooke Winter Fair. Gloria Chapman, Wendell Groom and Clifford McCormick took special honours home to the Bury Club. Terry and Brian Lowry, Wayne Wilson, Wayne Alden and Ronnie Bell showed with success from the local club.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police again brought their horses and the Musical Ride to the Fair. We were glad to see that this has not been done away with as rumoured. We

as a nation are blamed for copying other nations and not being individuals, but who else could show such a triumph as the Musical Ride and the Mounties? Let's keep it as part of our heritage.

Fred brought a two-inch birch log from the woods today to make some candle holders for the Christmas decorations. He is sawing it into eight and twelve inch blocks with a slant of seventy degrees, slanting from top to bottom. Then he will cut some feet from a half-inch piece and drill the holes for the candles, one in the eight-inch blocks and two in the longer ones. We'll add red candles, cones, evergreen and a ribbon for a real festive look.

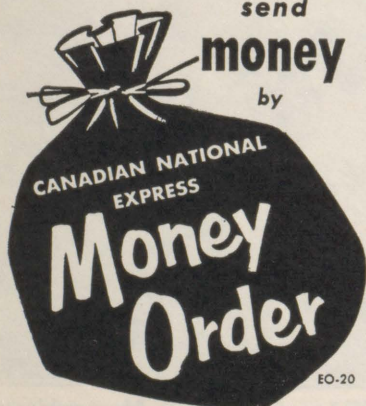
I suppose you are all busy with plans for the great festival. May we all think of the kindness the Christ Child brought to the world, and carry some of it along with us after the festivities are over; may we remember to always be a little kinder.

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THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES SECTION

*and to matters of interest to them
Devoted to the activities of the Quebec Institutes*

Earthworms — Master Soil Builders

by M. O. Robertson

"The mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceedingly small", so sang the poet Longfellow. In contemplative mood we hold a handful of rich dark earth-humus; it is without structure yet within it all the wonders of civilization sleep.

Negligently we toss it to the ground, a movement focuses our attention, it is an earthworm, naked and blind, without weapon of offense or defense, no feet on which to run, no mind to be afraid. And yet! for a moment we have held in our hands one of the, "mills of God", one of the major forces which have toiled ceaselessly, that life may exist and continue to exist. Charles Darwin, the great English naturalist, in his book, "The Formation of Vegetable Mould", wrote, "It may be doubted whether there are many other animals which have played so important a part in the history of the world as have these lowly organized creatures".

Food comes first, the production of food is the universal and prime pre-occupation of Man. All the other necessities, comforts and luxuries of civilization wait upon the production of food and food comes from topsoil.

In Egypt's Valley of the Nile, which has been described as possibly the richest soil in the world, millions of worms do the cultivating and their castings production for a six month period are estimated to be 120 tons per acre.

The earthworm has been referred to as the, "Gardener's unpaid handyman", this certainly applies in the case of the Nile Valley. With an adequate worm population, commercial fertilisers need not be used, in fact, these and various types of insecticides, so widely used as antidotes for soils and insect pests, often result in killing off the worms.

Earthworms: The Gardener's Manure Factory

The earthworms condition the food materials needed by the roots of plants, this is accomplished by means of their castings, which in a garden soil in good condition may exceed 25 tons per acre each year. The castings are produced in the alimentary canal of the earthworm from dead vegetable matter and particles of soil. In this canal or passage the food of these creatures is neutralized by constant additions of carbonate of lime from the three pairs of calciferous glands which are situated near the gizzard where it is finely ground prior to digestion. The casts which are left contain everything the crop needs,

also in just the condition in which the plant can make use of them.

Recent investigations in the U.S.A., show that fresh casts of earthworms are five times richer in available nitrogen, seven times richer in available phosphates and eleven times richer in available potash than the upper six inches of soil.

Intensive Propagation of Earthworms

If your garden soil is low in fertility, easily dries out or lacks humus, as mine did two years ago, then the earth-master system will transform it into rich black humus laden soil. During the summer of 1954, I visited a large Earthworm Farm in the U.S.A. I was greatly impressed with the intensive propagation of earthworms and especially with what had been achieved in their garden and orchard, in the way of more and better produce. At that time I purchased 1500 red hybrid earthworms, these are a cross between the orchard and manure worms, half of these, I put to work in my specially prepared compost pile.

The other half, breeder worms, I put in specially prepared soil in boxes, in my basement. By the following Spring my original 1500 had now multiplied to almost 15,000 from the two breeder boxes. I now had 20 boxes of rich black earth, seething with earthworms in all stages of development. After stocking several other compost piles



Bonaventure County W.I. presents a Life Membership to Mrs. Wheeler Adams in recognition of her outstanding work in editing "The Bonaventure Echo". From left to right are Mrs. D. L. Sullivan, treasurer, Mrs. Oliver Watt, secretary, Mrs. John Walker, president, Mrs. Adams and Mrs. John Campbell, past president.

with earthworms and a deep pit, which could produce 50,000 earthworms, I used the smaller worms and capsules to improve my topsoil and build up an earthworm population in my garden. By Fall, I was convinced, that my garden had benefitted greatly; my plants were healthier and vegetables had a better flavour.

The Compost Pile

For the average gardener a compost pile is a *must*, in it all the waste from garden and kitchen can be turned into rich organic fertilizer.

To build a compost heap choose a site which is well drained and remove the sod in a space 4' x 6'. Pile the green waste materials such as grass clippings, weeds, leaves, vegetable waste nearby. These should be allowed to rot for a few days before using. Place a 6" layer of this material on the space, over this spread a 2" layer of barnyard manure and one inch of good soil. Sprinkle this with a one inch layer of agricultural lime or wood ash. Continue this process until the heap is 5' high, apply water as you build it, then put a thick mulch of straw or hay on the top to prevent drying out.

Make three holes down the centre of the heap, by

inserting a sharpened stake about 5" in diameter, this allows for aeration. Always apply water on the pile in dry weather, three weeks after this operation is completed, dig a shallow trench in the top and put in 3000 earthworms.

Now you may bury all your waste food in the pile and cover it with a little soil; the worms will consume it, also turning it over and over, which will result in producing rich castings and humus. In three months time this compost heap will be ready to be used as a mulch in your garden, around fruit trees or on lawns. If the heap is built in the Fall, it may be left all winter provided it is well covered with a heavy layer of straw and green manure; the worms will continue to work, also to reproduce and ample breeding stock can be retained by leaving the last 10" of the heap on which to start a new one.

Many people believe that a great deal of the ill health today is due to the lack of pure natural food. Perhaps we should try and produce food-stuffs by using less artificial fertilizer and get back to Mother Nature's well tried methods, they may be slower and involve a little more work, at least the work won't do us any harm and we only eat to live, so let's eat well and live longer.

The Month With The W.I.

Gift souvenirs for Ceylon and the W.V.S. project, school uniforms for the Middle East Camps, are recurring items in this month's news. You will find a detailed report in "Office Happenings" of what has been going on here.

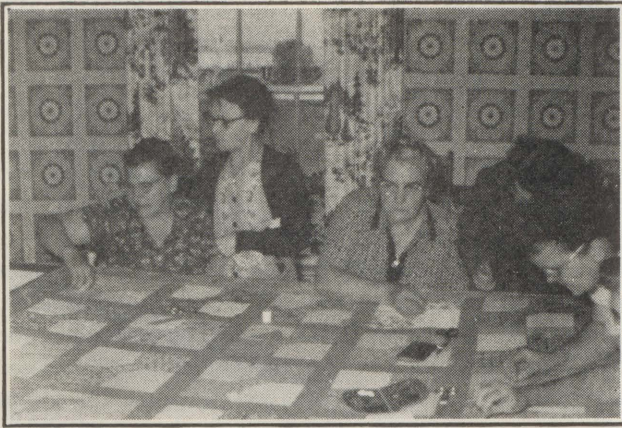
"Do you read your Handbooks?" is a question that could be asked. Where there has been a quiz on this, scores have been well under the "pass" mark—and often old established branches at that! This poses another question, "Does every member have a Handbook, and do you take them to every meeting?" A reprint will have to be made shortly, present supply running low. This will carry the change made at this year's convention in term of branch officer and the more detailed explanation of what must be done when a branch disbands or wants to apply for a life membership (no more slips to be fastened in your Handbook). Otherwise there is no change so until the new ones are ready use the ones now on hand (1949 or 1953, both the same). The office can supply them as long as they last.

Argenteuil: Arundel had a talk "Collecting Stamps", by Dr. R. B. Henry. At the School Fair 45 pupils exhibited 335 articles. Brownsburg's convenor of Agriculture had charge of the program and held an auction of flowers, fruits and vegetables, which netted the sum of \$6.10. Three members won prizes at the Ottawa Exhibition. Donations were \$46 to the Q.W.I. Service Fund and \$11.50 to the County Education Fund. Frontier discussed "Publicity for the W.I. and our County". A contest was held on "Scrambled Letters". Projects were aid to

retarded children and a visit to a local home for aged people. Jerusalem-Bethany presented a gift to a charter member on her anniversary and donated to the Service Fund and the County Educational Fund. Films on a trip overseas were shown by Miss H. Smith. Lachute visited the Avon Factory in Montreal and heard an address by Mr. Philippe Valois, M.P., who had been a delegate to the UN. Lakefield observed a memorial silence for the late Mrs. A. Kyle, a charter and life member, a very devoted worker for the W.I. The novelty apron was opened, netting \$5.60. Morin Heights made plans for a visit to Steinbergs. The school staff was welcomed at this meeting and one new member was enrolled. Gifts from other lands were on display. Donations were sent to the Service Fund and the County Educational Fund. Pioneer heard an article on Sewing and are planning a food sale. Unicef



Not "Aunt Dinah's" but Fordyce W.I.'s quilting party. "We finished it in a day and had lots of fun", was the report. The party was held at the home of the secretary, Mrs. A. Dryden, and one of the members present, Mrs. J. Jones, is ninety years old.



This picture shows more detail of the pattern of the quilt. The members from left to right are Mrs. Bureau, Mrs. M. Jones (who pieced the quilt), Mrs. Longeway, Mrs. Eric Jones and Mrs. Bromby.

cards are to be sold and \$5 was donated the Retarded Children project. A tour was made through the "Roger Chicken Farm". *Upper Lachute-East End* catered for a wedding and the school fair. The sum of \$20 was donated to the Q.W.I. Service Fund.

Bonaventure: *Marcil* entertained the County meeting. *Black Cape* and *Grand Cascapedia* assisted at the Red Cross Blood donor clinic, serving coffee and cookies to donors and helping the nurses. *Port Daniel*, with *Marcil* sponsored their annual School Fair, a very successful venture with \$250 given in prizes for gardens and handicrafts. *Matapedia*, too, announces holding its first School Fair, which met with success. W.I. members, as well as the school children, displayed handicrafts at this event. *Restigouche* made plans for their Christmas Concert. Several branches mention plans for a money-raising event for the National Foundation Fund. Winners of the County Scholarships of \$50 each were announced (a county project). These were Constance Wylie, Shigawake, and Geraldine Nadeau, *Grand Cascapedia*.

Chat-Huntingdon: *Aubrey-Riverfield* is making plans for a First Aid course. Donations were \$10 to Howick High School cafeteria, cottons to Cancer Society and jams and jellies to Barrie Hospital. Lunch was served to Howick 4-H Club and friends at the field day. *Dundee* welcomed guests from the Home Bureau, Bombay, N.Y. Members exhibited articles made during the year and had a demonstration on the uses of Patchwork. Mrs. Rember, County President, showed reproductions of famous paintings. *Franklin Centre* visited "Open House" at Macdonald College. A bursary of \$50 was given to highest ranking student in Grade X, going on to Grade XI. A talk was given by Mr. Jackson, principal of the school, on a Home and School Association and the need for co-operation. *Hemmingford* heard a talk by Mrs. Bayford, of England, on W.I. work there, and by Mr. Soucy of Downham Nurseries, Abbotsford, who also showed slides. A successful school fair is reported here. *Howick* also heard a talk by Mrs. Bayford on the English Institutes and slides on "A Trip to Bermuda" were shown by Mrs. Eric Smith.

Huntingdon also saw the reproductions of famous paintings, shown by Mrs. Rember, who gave a talk on the Handbook as another item for the program. A discussion was held on "Meal Planning for Health". Projects are: food sale as a money raiser for FWIC Foundation Fund and plans to entertain the teaching staff. Plants donated by Mrs. Robb and cookbooks were sold. *Ormstown* also had Mrs. Bayford and another speaker, Dr. Hertcleff Holland, told of her native country.

Compton: *Brookbury* showed films and made plans for the annual supper and school fair, donating \$5 each for prizes and lunch for the latter. *Bury* has completed a course in Millinery. Plans for the school fair and money donated for prizes are reported here also. Mrs. Sutherland conducted a sing-song and Mrs. Austin Parker, a visitor from Michigan, gave a talk on work done by her organization in her community. *Cookshire* heard a paper on new fabrics for stockings and their care, when they entertained the executive of East Angus W.I. A \$50 bursary was given a boy from Grade XI who is entering Bishop's University and five cartons of clothing, jams and jellies were sent to the Cecil Memorial Home. In all, 17 articles were shown from this branch at the antique booth at Cookshire Fair. *East Clifton* entertained *Bury* and *Brookbury* Institutes, the County Executive and Mrs. Cameron, the Junior Supervisor. A report was given on the School Fair and a prize given for French in Grade X. *Scotstown* had Mrs. Fisher and Mrs. MacRae of *Bury* as guest speakers, on a visit to the Cecil Memorial Home. Members modelled hats made at a recent millinery course at *Canterbury*. Ten articles were sent to the antique exhibit at *Cookshire*.

Gaspé: sent in the following memoriam, which they would like to appear in the "Journal". "A faithful and devoted member of this County Women's Institute, Mrs. Fred Patterson, was called to higher service on Sept. 6th. Mrs. Patterson had held office on both County and Branch executives, having been County Secretary, Treasurer, and Convenor of both Citizenship and Publicity. She was very much interested in Citizenship and gave several talks on Civil Defence at branch meetings in her county. On the occasion of her 64th birthday, last November, her branch presented her with a life membership. Mrs. Patterson will be greatly missed by all, especially in her own branch of Wakeham".

Haldimand heard an article by the Citizenship Convenor, "A Title for Charles". *Sandy Beach* discussed school lunches. *Wakeham* held an "Amateur Night" which brought forth much hidden talent. Prizes of \$2 each were given in Grade IX for highest marks in mathematics and for the children's masquerade party. An article was read on Ceylon.

Gatineau: *Aylmer East* had several talks: Mrs. Hopkins, "Ways of Keeping a Husband"; Mrs. Routliffe, "Wearing Proper Shoes and their Care"; Mrs. Jameison, "Quebec Laws for Children"; Mrs. Fuller, "The Loan Fund". *Breckenridge* had a "Quickie Quiz" and heard

several readings: Over-feeding Linked with Heart Failure, Don't Brand your Child a Failure, and An Immigrant Meets a Teacher. *Lakeview* had a discussion on how to improve the school fair and Mrs. Laurie Black demonstrated Beauty Counsellor make-up. A sale is to be held later. *Lower Eardley* had the county president, Mrs. Hopkins, as guest speaker, also Miss Kathleen Bowlby, National Secretary of UN Association in Canada. A contest, "Name the flags of UN countries" was won by Mrs. Nesbitt. A brush party was held. *Rupert* had a film taken in Holland in "tulip time". Prizes amounting to \$60 were given at the 4-H Calf Club Show and \$150 realized from a dance. At the invitation of *Wakefield W.I.* members from *Rupert* joined them in touring the Aluminum plant at Farm Point and were entertained for dinner at *Wakefield*. *Wright* donated \$5 to the Can. Institute for the Blind and a similar amount to the National Foundation Fund. Cancer pamphlets and Consumer Bulletins were distributed and a talk given by Mrs. Buck, "My Experiences as a School Teacher". Several readings were also heard. This branch won the most prizes at *Aylmer Fair*.

Megantic: *Inverness* discussed catering for a turkey supper for the Oddfellows and heard a report of the Children's Fair, when \$25.20 was given in prizes.

Missisquoi: *Cowansville* had slides and a talk by Mrs. Sherman Rogers on her trip to the British Isles and Europe. Nine guests were present. *Fordyce* had Mrs. Kuhring, Sutton, as guest speaker, her topic, "Dollars, Cents and Sense". A quilting was the branch project. *Stanbridge East* held their Sport's Day and School Fair for both local Protestant and Catholic Schools and *Frelighsburg*. Mr. Rousseau, the local agronomer was present and spoke to the children and films were shown from the Quebec Bureau of Publicity. Prizes were given, amounting to \$25. A social evening, in lieu of the regular meeting, was held in honour of Mrs. Harvey's departure for Ceylon. (Mrs. Harvey is a member of this branch). She was presented with a purse of money from the members.

Montcalm: *Rawdon* donated \$34 to the Dental Clinic and plans were made to hold a card party in its aid.

Pontiac: *Clarendon* donated \$24 to the Hospital Oxygen Tent Fund and \$10 to the Hospital Auxiliary. *Elmside* was told of teaching methods by three local teachers and a discussion was held on the prizes taken at *Shawville* and *Quyon Fairs*. *Quyon* heard the 55-56 report on Publicity and discussed this year's outline for Publicity. A donation of \$5 was voted for *Quyon Fair* and \$3 for children's prizes at the same fair. This branch has undertaken landscape gardening around the Village Memorial. The *Quyon* display took 4th prize at *Shawville Fair* and 3rd at *Quyon*. Talks were given on Juvenile Delinquency and the need of more courts of Domestic Relations in Quebec. *Shawville* had a demonstration on the correct method of bandaging by Mrs. Smith R.N. This branch took first prize at their fair. *Wyman* welcomed a new member and heard a report from members who had

attended the tea given at the *Ottawa Exhibition*. Some of the members also attended a picnic held by *Stark's Corners W.I.* at *Radford*.

Quebec: *Valcartier* heard a talk by Mrs. R. Johnson, convenor of Health & Welfare, on the "Medicine Cabinet". Movies were shown on Ceylon and Australia and plans made for a Euchre Party.

Richmond: 38 members from all branches in this county attended a tour of the *Sherbrooke Hospital*. *Dennison's Mills* realized \$26.52 from an ice-cream social. Prizes were given in a "Window-box contest", which was judged by the local agronomer. *Gore* studied "Duties of a Member" and had a reading, "Our Queen is a Farmer". A demonstration on "Toy-making" was held and a donation of jams and jellies sent to the *Wales Home*. A "Talent Band" has been formed to raise money. *Melbourne Ridge's* rollcall was "Bring cotton for the Cancer Society". The *Welfare & Health* convenor gave two readings and a demonstration was held on stuffed toys. A card party netted \$9.60. *Richmond Hill* gave the broadcast over CKTS, the subject, "History of our Branch". Two magazines, "Popular Mechanics" and "National Geographic", are sent to a boy in the hospital. A quiz on advertising was a feature of the program. *Shipton* helped with a school fair and donated \$25 for prizes. *Spooner Pond* gave a purse to a member's husband who won the honour of going to the International Plowing Match. *Windsor* held a tea and food sale which netted \$55.75. At this meeting a Girl Guide gave a talk on the summer camp at *Dale Lake*. Money was donated to the leader for new furnishings for the Guide room.

Rouville: *Abbotsford* collected cotton for the Cancer Society and brought in 30 jars of jelly for the *Montreal Diet Dispensary*. Miss Girard, of the Can. Cancer Society, *Montreal*, gave a talk on Cancer, followed by films illustrating the far reaching research which is being carried on by the society.

Papineau: *Lochaber* heard a paper on "Papineau County"—its industries and attractions. Plans under way for a chicken supper. The special mention, souvenirs for Ceylon, was announced at this meeting.

Shefford: *Granby Hill* made plans for the annual sale of food and fancy work. The Publicity Convenor dis-



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cussed her work and a word-making contest was held. Two donations of material have been received. *Granby West* made plans for a 500 party. A donation of \$5 was given for the use of the Church Hall and another sent for the National Foundation Fund. A contest was held on Publicity. *Waterloo-Warden* held a discussion on the UN. The sum of \$24.83 was realized from a card party and prizes were given for most progress in French at the High School.

Sherbrooke: *Ascot* helped with the school fair and took charge of the County W.I. booth at the Sherbrooke Fair for one day. Guest speaker at the meeting was Miss Jean Bowers, one of a party of 42 Canadian and one American High School student that toured abroad. A zinnia contest was held. Many donations are listed: school fair (prizes and lunch) and gifts for a golden wedding and a new bride. *Belvidere* held a flower and vegetable contest, judged by Mr. Norwood, who was speaker at the meeting. Donations here were also for the school fair and help for the class of retarded children. *Brompton Road* also had a flower show. A subscription to the Family Herald was renewed for the English "link", also renewals for "Life" and "Readers Digest" for a war veteran. Several articles were read at the meeting: Don't Make your Daughter be Popular, Rights of Women and What Use is Education. *Lennoxville* entertained members of *Ascot W.I.* and guest attendance prizes were given. Donations here to the school fair and also the branch share of upkeep of European child, a county project. *Milby's* members attended the Cancer Clinic. Miss Bowers also spoke at this meeting and the school fair was again supported here. Talent money brought in \$21.75.

Stanstead: *Beebe* entertained the teaching staff of their school. A food sale brought in \$31. *Hatley Centre* discussed "How to Raise Funds", also the county scholarship. A donation of \$10 was voted the North Hatley High School scholarship. *Stanstead North* made the broadcast over WIKE, Newport, the history of the branch, by Mrs. D. Johnston. The annual dinner and sale was held at the "Old Brick Schoolhouse", under the convenorship of Mrs. Mayhew. *Tomifobia* had a quiz on the Handbook, with Mrs. Knight winning first prize. Aprons were brought in for a sale and a needy family is to be helped. *Way's Mills* sent a young man to a Folk School in the county, and sponsored a social evening for this event. A W.I. calender was sent to a former member on her 92nd birthday and a subscription to the "Family Herald" to the English "link". Each member spoke on the pro and con of "Fluoridation of Water".

Vaudreuil: *Cavagnal* sent a large sack of vegetables to the Catherine Booth Hospital, Lachine, held a Hobby Show and food sale, and served tea at the Hudson Heights Yacht Club. Several members exhibited at the St. Lazare fair and \$75 was spent for prizes for the school fair. *Harwood* has formed a "link" with an English W.I., Chipperfield. Cancer dressings were given in response to the roll call.

OFFICE HAPPENINGS

Souvenirs for Ceylon

"A difficult task"! It is small wonder this was the exclamation made by the judges placing the awards on the souvenirs sent in by Institutes for delegates at the Ceylon Conference. Many purchased their articles (small and very attractive souvenirs of Quebec) but the hand work sent in was all of such quality that it was indeed difficult to make the decision. Points considered were usefulness, size, weight (easy to pack) and workmanship. On all these counts the 1st prize went to *Haldimand W.I.* for a set of five felt needle cases in Institute colours, beautifully made, with appliqued maple leaf and embroidered "Canada". Second prize went to *Sandy Beach W.I.* for a small doily with linen centre and crocheted border. The workmanship was outstanding, and attractively packaged with coloured prints of local scenes and a friendly message with return address, all combined to give it this award.

Three articles came in for special mention. One was a hand carved plaque of maple wood, made by a member of *Morin Heights W.I.* This will be reserved as a special souvenir for Mrs. Berry, ACWW president. Another was a large centrepiece with linen centre and deep crocheted edge from *Lochaber W.I.* This had all the members' names embroidered to make a pleasing design and was nicely packaged with maple leaves. A pot holder of fine workmanship completed the list. This was in *W.I.* colours, crocheted, and made by a 90 year old member of *Sawyerville W.I.*, Mrs. Cora Austin.

In all 87 branches took part in this project and the Q.W.I. executive was delighted with the variety and quality of the articles making up the shipment.

School Uniforms

Members are making an enthusiastic response to the "school uniform" project. The Women's Voluntary Services, through whom this is carried on, is most grateful



One of our hostesses to our Ceylon delegates was to have been Lady Coomaraswamy of that country, who is also vice-president at large of ACWW. Her husband was Deputy High Commissioner for Ceylon in England for four years and, following the Toronto triennial, Ambassador to Burma. Lady Coomaraswamy has been active in women's organizations all her life; president of the Women's Guild, a Director of the YWCA, Commissioner of Girl Guides; but her particular interest has been the Lanka Mahila Samitis of Ceylon.

for all this assistance. At the end of October, Institutes had asked for over 250 uniforms and orders were still coming in. It reminds us of the first W.V.S. project, personal parcels during the war years. We were told then that the Q.W.I. gave the best participation of any group approached. Country women excel in practical forms of aid.

Canadian Association of Consumers

A national meeting in Ottawa is the news here. Mrs. Adams, our own national president attended (a member of the Board), the past president, Mrs. Summers, who is chairman of the committee on Agriculture, and Mrs. Ellard, as another representative from the F.W.I.C. The retiring CAC president, Mrs. Vautelet, stressed the need for CAC to realize it speaks for all consumers, not struggling for narrow interests. "Broadening areas of understanding is a primary responsibility of CAC," she warned, and went on to say, "A sense of partnership is better than conflict".

Resolutions of particular interest to country women are: endorsement of government program for free milk in public schools (Ottawa will match fund for fund with provinces), more inspection of local cheese and butter factories, and continuing education for pasteurization of milk. Each province is asked to work on these resolutions.

Montreal Council of Women

October marks the opening of another season. In keeping with UN Day, (Oct. 24th) a particularly poignant skit was put on by Mrs. Catto, Chairman of International Relations and members of her committee. This was entitled, "The Family of Mankind" and many new Canadians took part in this most effective presentation.

UNESCO Gift Coupons

Contributions received for the month:

Aubrey-Riverfield	\$10
Rawdon	10
Wright	5

The project is now closed. The provincial treasurer, Mrs. Cooke, announces a total subscription of \$410.

When Country Women Meet

The 8th Triennial Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World is the big news this month. As most of you know, the conference has been postponed indefinitely. The uncertain international situation, and the fact that civil aircraft are no longer flying over the Middle East, forced the ACWW to the decision that they could not assume the responsibility of having some 500 delegates from all over the world in or on their way to Ceylon when there was no assurance that, though they might arrive safely, they would be able to get back home after the conference. There is no word as yet where or when the conference will be held.

Some delegates, our own among them, had already started, planning to visit friends or relatives in Scotland and England before going on to Ceylon. On the eve of her departure, Mrs. Harvey left the following message for Q.W.I. members.

"To all members of the Quebec Women's Institutes, my sincere thanks for the privilege and honour you have given me in appointing me as your representative to the ACWW Conference.

"Thanks, also, for making this trip possible by accepting the Conference Travel Fund. I shall endeavour to represent you to the best of my ability.

"It is impossible for me to answer in person all the messages of good wishes I have received from you all, everywhere. I would like to say here how much I have appreciated them and what they have meant to me as I start on my way to this international gathering.

"I am leaving the Q.W.I. in good hands during my absence. Mrs. Ellard, as your 1st vice-president, has been assured of the full support of the executive as the occasion may arise—and I'll be back for the semi-annual.

The University at which the conference was to have been held lies just four miles from Kandy, the ancient hill capital of Ceylon. It has over 900 students, owns 1,700 acres of land (soon to be enlarged to 2,400) and will have 10 halls of residence when completed. At present there are five for men, three for women. Tuition and examinations are free. "When the University of Ceylon is complete, and all its aims achieved, there is no doubt it will be one of Asia's first seats of learning", says the "Countrywoman".



Mrs. Murray of Eire is in the centre of this group of delegates and visitors to the ACWW triennial at Toronto. She and her husband expected to go to Ceylon also, at their own expense. Canadian delegates will remember Mrs. Murray's sprightly impromptu performance of the Irish Jig at the farewell banquet in Toronto. Also how an extra cup of Canadian tea caused her to miss the bus while on the Northern Ontario tour following the Conference.

The official delegates from Eire were Mrs. Segrave-Daly and Mrs. Ahearne. The former is national vice-president (the youngest ever to hold that office) and the latter is president of her Federation; a wonderful craft worker who speaks Irish fluently.

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At the extreme right is Mrs. Kameswaramma Kupuswamy who was a visitor to the 1953 Conference and was to be a delegate to this one. She was instrumental in providing Granby with an Indian elephant, and it was to her that British Columbia and Quebec each sent two sewing machines. These machines were the nucleus of a tailoring establishment at Mysore where women can learn this trade and earn that fifty cents a day which will support a family.



Members of the Brompton Road branch of the Q.W.I. at the home of Mrs. D. Cullen. The president, Mrs. S. Billing, is in the front row, second from the right.

Agriculture at the C.A.C.

"During the past few years farmers have concluded that if they are to survive financially they must follow a specialized type of farming", said Mrs. Hugh Summers, Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, reporting at the National Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Consumers. "Today", she continued, "most successful farmers may be divided into four major groups (1) grain growing (2) dairying (3) beef, hog and poultry (4) fruit and vegetable".

Mrs. Summers went on to say the per capita consumption of dairy products in Canada is possibly the highest in the world, as it exceeds that of the United States. In 1955 the average consumption in Canada of fluid milk and cream was 408 lbs. per person and for butter 19.3 lbs. For food value, she contended, milk continues to be the best buy at the present price.

Mrs. Summers referred to the resolution presented to the Federal Government by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture to undertake research on the relative values of different beef grades. She felt it would be worthwhile for the CAC to support this resolution.

The speaker noted the improvement made in displaying and packaging of food products but stated, "Consumers should be warned that these innovations add to the cost of the fruit as more labour, material and equipment is required. Consumer reaction will govern the future of these methods".

Speaking of the depressed income of the farmers in an otherwise buoyant Canadian economy, Mrs. Summers quoted figures showing that in 1955 Canadian farmers received an income only slightly higher than that received in 1945 and noted that this year more news items, editorials and articles have dealt with this situation than in any previous year. She stated both the FAO and the UN are undertaking studies of price supports and other methods for securing a more equitable income for the farming industry. These studies will also include policies inclined to reduce costs and increase productivity.

In closing Mrs. Summers quoted from an address by the president of one of the largest national banks in the U.S. but which applies equally to Canada. "We sincerely hope that our economy does not continue to boom itself into an uneconomic imbalance between agriculture and urban industry".

FARM FORUM News and Views

L. G. Young

Pontiac farmers banded together through their district farm forum committee to voice their opinion of a proposed change in a town by-law. Shawville council was considering changing the late opening by-law from Saturday evening to Friday evening. Farmers objected on the grounds that they were able to rest Sunday following an evening business trip to town Saturday, and that if the closing times were changed it would be an inconvenience to them. The Pontiac Farm Forum District Committee presented their views to the town council.

Elsewhere about the province there has been little forum news since last month. Several rallies have been held and there is one still remaining for Brome and neighbouring forums.

The provincial office has been quite busy but rather quiet. To date Guides for the first series of farm forum broadcasts have been mailed out but no replies have yet been received. Preparations are under way for the coming Directors' meeting. Next month there should be more news as several summaries will have been completed by then and the directors' meeting will probably furnish some news.

Secretary's Notebook:

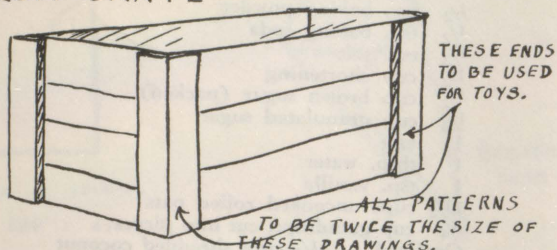
About the only news available this month, that from the Pontiac District, mentioned in the first paragraph, illustrates how farm forum may be used for the farmers' benefit. It is only one of the services farm forum provides, but it is an important one. In this case Pontiac farmers found it ready to work for them when they needed help.

Christmas Toymaking

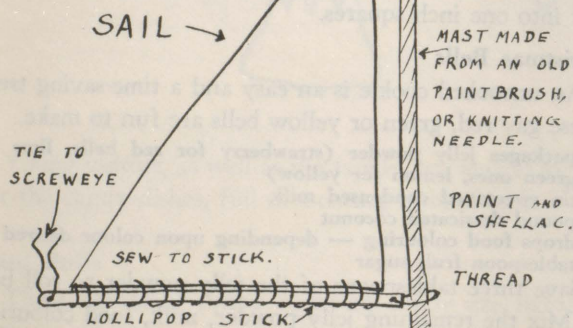
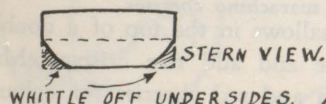
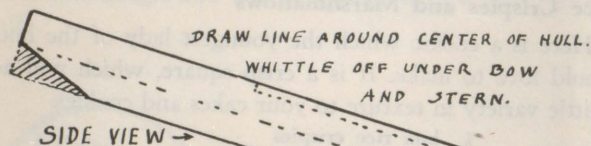
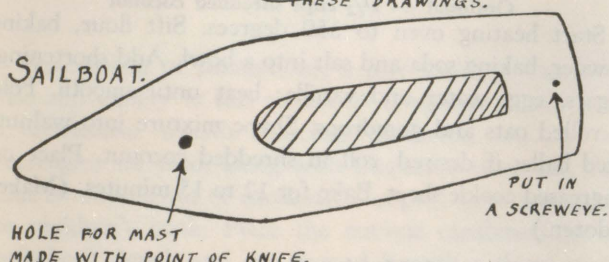
Here are plans for making inexpensive Christmas toys and ornaments. The sailboat and the doll's cradle are made with wood taken from an orange crate; the table

ornaments, which can be used as place card holders, are made with Christmas tree balls and thin cardboard. Almost any kind of paint can be used, then covered with shellac.

FRUIT CRATE



SAILBOAT.

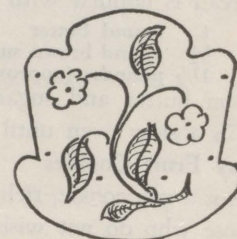
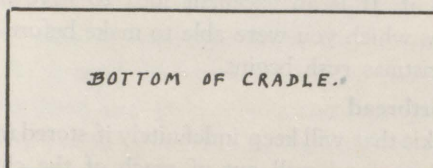


SIDE OF CRADLE.

MAKE 2.

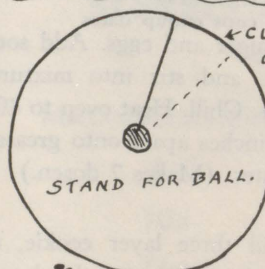


BOTTOM OF CRADLE.



HEAD OF CRADLE.

DECORATIONS ARE ON OUTSIDES OF ENDS. AFTER GLUEING PIECES TOGETHER, HAMMER SMALL BRADS WHERE SPOTS INDICATE. PAINT AND SHELLAC.



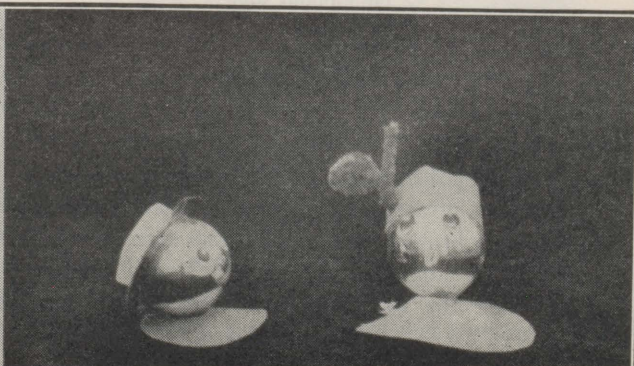
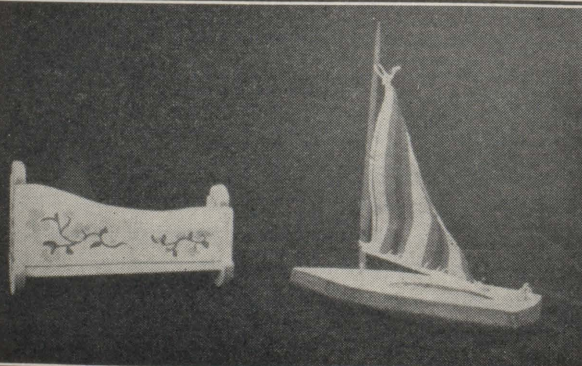
CUT OVERLAP ABOUT $\frac{3}{4}$ " AT CIRCUMFERENCE. CUT HOLE IN CENTER, AND GLUE IN BALL.

PAINT ON FACE, WITH POSTER PAINT.

PIECE OF PAPER DOILY.



HAT IS MADE FROM CONSTRUCTION PAPER, 6" x 1". DECORATION IS A COLOURED PIPE CLEANER.



Holiday Goodies

by Helen McKirdy

Now is the time to start planning your menus for Christmas visitors. At Christmas, more than at any other time of the year, friends and neighbours love to come calling. You will want to have your larder well stocked with cakes, cookies, and candies, which will be ready to serve at a moment's notice.

By this time, your favourite Christmas Fruit Cake is made and is aging. Next is the question of what is to be served with it. It is an excellent idea to have on hand some cookies which you were able to make before the last minute Christmas rush begins.

Scotch Shortbread

For a cookie that will keep indefinitely if stored in an airtight container (and well out of reach of the children), shortbread is popular with any group.

- 1 pound butter
- 1/2 pound brown sugar
- 1 1/2 pounds (approximately 6 cups) flour

Cream butter and sugar thoroughly for 15 minutes. Cook in a slow oven until a light golden brown colour.

Holiday Fruit Cookies

This is a gay cookie, rich with colourful fruit and nuts, for those who do not wish to, or do not have the time to decorate their products. These cookies are good travellers and good keepers too.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 cup soft shortening | 1 tsp. baking soda |
| 2 cups brown sugar (packed) | 1 tsp. salt |
| 2 eggs | 1 1/2 cups broken pecans |
| 1/2 cup sour milk | 2 cups halved candied cherries |
| 3 1/2 cups sifted flour | 2 cups cut-up dates |

Mix well shortening, brown sugar and eggs. Add sour milk. Sift flour, soda and salt, and stir into mixture. Mix in pecans, cherries and dates. Chill. Heat oven to 400 degrees. Drop with teaspoon 2 inches apart onto greased cookie sheet. Bake 8 to 10 minutes. (Makes 7 dozen.)

Ground Almond Cookie

This is a tasty and colourful three layer cookie, of Scottish origin. The raspberry jam between the layers brightens your cookie plate.

- 1 cup flour
- 6 tablespoons butter
- 1 yolk of egg
- 1 oz. sweet almonds
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- Raspberry jam

Blanch, mince and pound almonds. Cut butter into flour. Add sugar and almonds and mix well. Moisten with enough egg to make stiff paste. Put aside to firm, for one hour. Divide batter into three equal portions. Then roll each of these portions into a rectangular sheet—2 1/2" x 10". Bake on greased cookie sheet in a slow oven until a light golden brown. While still warm spread two sheets with raspberry jam, stack and place unsprayed sheet on the top. Sprinkle the top with powdered sugar. Cut into fingers—2 1/2" x 3/4"—while still warm.

Gumdrop Cookies

A favourite with the youngsters (also the man with a sweet tooth) is this gumdrop cookie.

- 1 cup sifted all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1/2 cup brown sugar (packed)
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tbsp. water
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 1/2 cups uncooked rolled oats
- 3/4 cup gumdrops, cut into pieces
- Optional — 1 1/2 cups shredded coconut

Start heating oven to 350 degrees. Sift flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt into a bowl. Add shortening, sugars, egg, water and vanilla; beat until smooth. Fold in rolled oats and gumdrops. Shape mixture into walnut-sized balls; if desired, roll in shredded coconut. Place on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes. (Makes 4 dozen.)

Rice Crispies and Marshmallows

Here is a cookie which the youngest lady of the house would love to make. It is a crisp square, which will add a little variety in texture to your cakes and cookies.

- 1 box rice crispies
- 3/4 pound marshmallows
- 1/4 pound butter
- Red and green marachino cherries

Melt butter and marshmallows in the top of a double boiler. Remove from stove and add rice crispies. Mix thoroughly. Add the green and red cherries for colour. Turn into a greased 9" x 9" baking pan. Chill thoroughly. Cut into one inch squares.

Christmas Bells

An uncooked cookie is an easy and a time-saving treat. These gay red, green or yellow bells are fun to make.

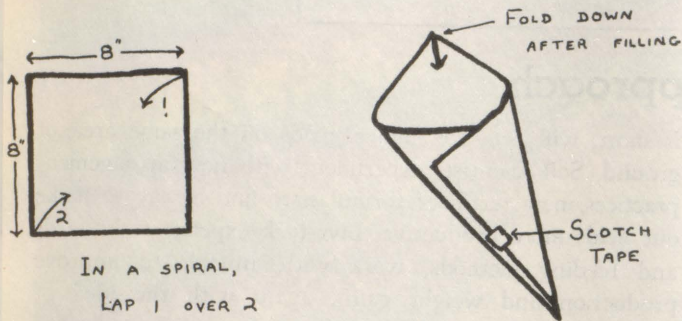
- 2 packages jelly powder (strawberry for red bells, lime for green ones, lemon for yellow)
- 1 tin sweetened condensed milk
- 3/4 pound dessicated coconut
- 20 drops food colouring — depending upon colour desired
- 1 tablespoon fruit sugar

Save three tablespoons of the jelly powder to roll bells in. Mix the remaining jelly powder, milk, food colouring, and sugar well. Add the coconut, and combine ingredients thoroughly. Shape about a dessert spoonful of the mixture into a bell. Roll it in jelly powder. Decorate with a silver ball for the clapper.

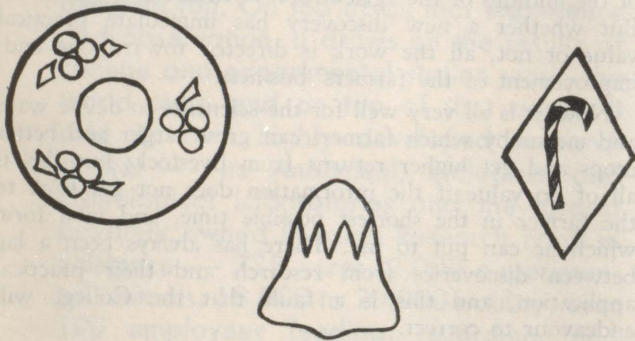
You will all have a favourite sugar cookie recipe, which is a delightful Christmas treat. This plain cookie lends itself to all your artistic talents. Coloured shot, chocolate chips, silver bells, nuts, gumdrops, pieces of candied fruit, small pieces of jelly beans all make colourful and very attractive decorations. These extras can be used along with coloured icing or all alone. The icing (made with food

colouring added to butter icing which is just a little stiffer than usual) is piped through a paper tube (if you do not have a cake decorator).

The tube is made in the following manner:



Besides bits of decorations, a few unusual shapes will also add variety to this cookie. A doughnut cutter makes a Christmas wreath. Circles, diamonds, squares and rectangles are used, along with Christmas trees and bells. Cut an outline out of cardboard—copied from a magazine or children's book. Place the cut-out cardboard on the rolled-out dough and cut around it with a sharp paring knife.



Young visitors, as well as the family, are always looking for the candy dishes, full of exciting little morsels.

Mint Puffs

These delicately tinted swirls of candy are light and tasty.

- 1 1/2 cups sugar
 - 2 tbsp. light corn syrup
 - 1/4 cup water
 - 1 stiffly-beaten egg white
 - Red food colouring or Green food colouring
 - Peppermint extract Oil of spearmint
- or

Combine sugar, syrup and water; stir until sugar dissolves. Cook to soft-ball stage (236 degrees F. with a candy thermometer). Slowly pour over egg white, beating until mixture holds shape when dropped from a spoon. Add a drop or two of extract and colour a delicate shade.

Swirl from a teaspoon onto waxed paper. (Makes 2 1/2 dozen.)

White Taffy

What is more fun than a taffy pull? The children can be kept busy on a cold winter afternoon, and at the same time you will have some delicious home-made candy to serve.

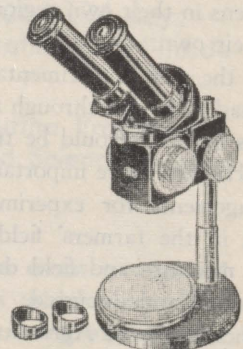
- 2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup light corn syrup
- 2/3 cup water
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Put all the ingredients except the vanilla into a saucepan and cook, stirring until the sugar is dissolved. Continue cooking, without stirring, until the temperature 268 degree F., or until the hard ball stage, is reached. Remove from the stove and pour into greased pans. When cool enough to handle, pour the vanilla into the center of the mass. Gather the corners toward the center, so that the flavour will not be lost. Remove from the pan and pull. When the candy is white and rather firm, stretch out in a long rope and cut into pieces of the desired size, using scissors. If this is to be kept, it should be wrapped in waxed paper. Different colours and flavours may be added to this recipe, using as little as possible of these to give a delicate colour and flavour.

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THE COLLEGE PAGE

The Macdonald Clan

Notes and News of Staff Members and Former Students

A New Approach

Macdonald College has appointed a fieldman. He is Arnold Hughes, a graduate in Animal Husbandry who was born and brought up in the farming district of the Eastern Townships in Quebec. Many of our readers have already met him, for during the past few weeks he has been on tour, meeting farmers and getting acquainted. His job, in which he will work in the closest possible collaboration with the agronomes of the Provincial Extension Service, is to act as a contact man between the farmers, the agronomes, and the College, bringing about a closer relationship between these three groups and acting as a channel for transmitting information and ideas in both directions.

The work on which he is engaged is still in the preliminary stages, but with his training and background he will have a definite contribution to make, and it is our belief that before long, tangible results of this newest project of Macdonald College will be seen.

In agricultural research today more and more experimental fieldwork is being done in the farmers' fields rather than on college farms. There are real advantages in having this work going on where the farmers, who, after all, are the ones most concerned, can watch what is going on, and adapt the results to their own operations. There is also the advantage that the farmers can see exactly what happens in their own regions and under conditions similar to their own.

In the past, experimental work done on college farms has had to be put through another stage on demonstration farms before it could be translated into practice. One of Mr. Hughes' more important tasks will be to help to make arrangements for experimental work to be carried on right in the farmers' fields, and to help the agronomes hold meetings and field days at which the work can be explained and discussed.

The Faculty of Agriculture at Macdonald College exists for two purposes; to train students in the fundamentals of agricultural science and practice, and to pursue research on agricultural problems of all kinds. This research is carried out by members of the staff and by graduate students who use the results of their research as thesis material in working toward advanced degrees.

All this research is directed toward one goal; the improvement of agricultural processes. Plant breeders are concerned with the creation of new varieties of farm crops that will resist diseases that attack varieties in common use, will ripen in districts where the growing season

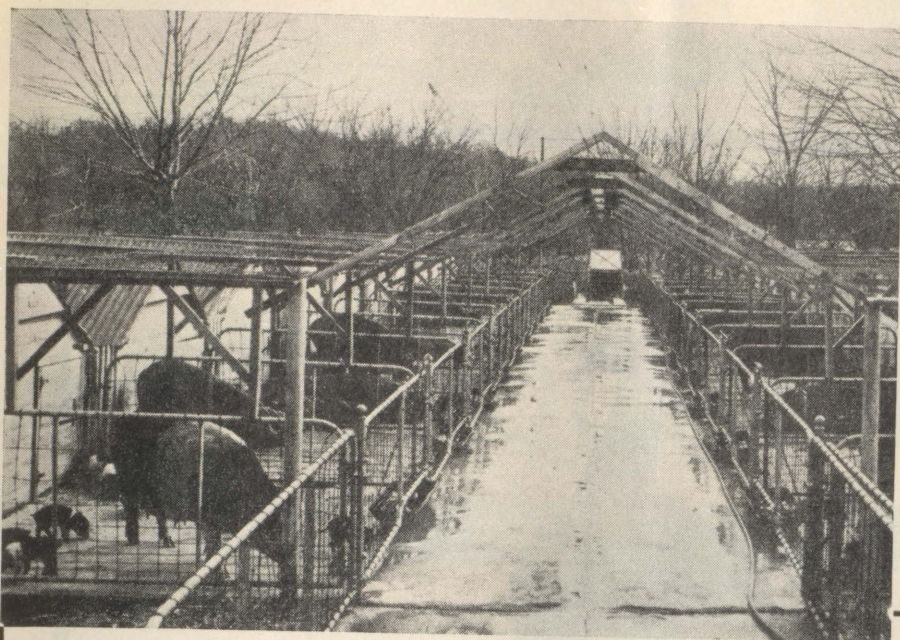
is short, will produce higher yields on the same area of ground. Soil scientists experiment with new management practices, new fertilizer formulas, to find a way to make our fields more productive. Livestock experts study feeds and feeding methods, work with animals to improve production and weight gains, again with the idea of achieving greater production from the same number of animal units on the farm. Plant pathologists and entomologists are ceaselessly at work devising more efficient means of protecting growing crops and crops in storage from damage from diseases and pests. Agricultural engineers advise manufacturers of farm implements, test new developments in this field, study the problems of drainage and sanitation of fields to improve the growing and the harvesting of the crop.

In some cases the results of research are immediately visible; in others, the possible practical application of some of the findings of the agricultural scientists is not so clear. But whether a new discovery has immediate practical value or not, all the work is directed toward one end; improvement of the farmers' business.

Now, it is all very well for the scientists to devise ways and means by which farmers can grow larger and better crops and get higher returns from livestock; but this is all of no value if the information does not get back to the farmer in the shortest possible time, and in a form which he can put to use. There has always been a lag between discoveries from research and their practical application, and this is a fault that the College will endeavour to correct.



Macdonald Fieldman Arnold Hughes (left) confers with three men well known in extension work in Quebec: W. G. MacDougall, Don MacMillan and Don Robertson.



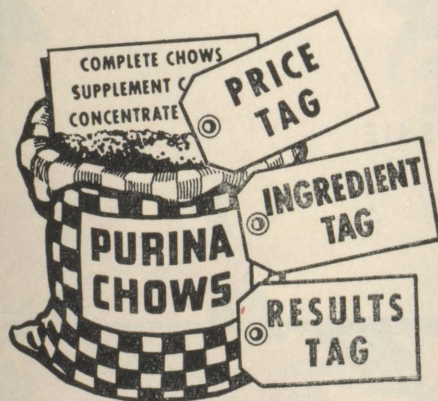
Part of the farrowing unit at the Purina Research Farm, showing individual houses and runs. Note the arrangements for flushing down and the strict cleanliness. Although not shown in this snapshot, the 120 sows housed here include a large number of Yorkshires.

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